

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following new heading and paragraph after the title and before the Technical Field on page 1:

**-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a divisional of United States Patent Application No. 10/149,887, filed June 14, 2002. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 29, and continuing onto page 40, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- Further, instead of this nozzle 16, it is possible to employ also, as a member extending over at least a portion of the upstream side of the flow of air A of the second gas supply area, a plate-like member which extends from the gas tube 1 on the upstream side of the flow of the air A of the second supply opening 7 toward the inner tube 2 and which has a plate face extending normal to the axial direction which is the flow direction of the air A, or a plate-like member having a plate face inclined relative to the direction normal to the flow of the air A, or a curved or bent plate-like member in the form of a split tubular member slip along the direction of the tube axis, having a cross section extending toward the inner tube 2 in the form of an arc, an oval arc, ~~or~~ u-shaped or v-shaped surrounding at least the upstream side of the second supply opening 7. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 60, line 26, and continuing onto page 61, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- Further, instead of the above-described plate-like member having the plate face oriented normal to the axial direction which is the flow direction of the air A, as the first shielding member 29, it is possible to employ a plate-like member having a plate face inclined relative to the direction normal to the flow of the air A, or a curved or bent plate-like member in the form of a split tubular member slip along the direction of the tube axis, having a cross

section extending toward the inner tube 2 in the form of an arc, an oval arc, ~~or~~ u-shaped or v-shaped surrounding at least the upstream side of the first supply opening 5. Or, a tubular member ~~surround~~ surrounding the first supply opening 5 may be employed as well. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 66, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- Further, in the burner apparatus of the present invention, instead of the plate-like member having a plate face extending normal to the axial direction, i.e. the flow direction of the air A, as the plate-like member 55, it is also possible to employ a plate-like member having a plate face inclined relative to the direction normal to the flow of the air A, or a curved or bent plate-like member in the form of a split tubular member slip along the direction of the tube axis, having a cross section extending toward the outer tube 4 in the form of an arc, an oval arc, ~~or~~ u-shaped or v-shaped surrounding at least the upstream side of the second supply opening 7. And, as shown in Fig. 42, it is also possible to provide, in the common channel 47 on the upstream of the second channel A2, a tubular member 11 having the supply opening 46 of the gas tube 1 extending from the outer periphery to the portion immediately before the upstream end of the inner tube 2. --

Please replace the Abstract on page 83 with the following rewritten Abstract.

-- ~~In the present invention, in~~ Disclosed is a burner apparatus comprising an inner tube (2) defining a second channel (A2) and an outer tube (3) defining a first channel (A1) surrounding the inner tube (2), air supplying means for supplying air to the first channel (A1) and the second channel (A2), and gas supplying means for supplying fuel gas G to the first channel (A1) and the second channel (A2), either the first channel (A1) or the second channel (A2) being used as a main combustion channel and the other being used as a pilot combustion channel, the main combustion channel and the pilot combustion channel receiving the supply of fuel gas (G) for combusting it, ~~said gas supplying means includes a plurality of fluid distributors (4) arranged in dispersion in a peripheral direction of the main combustion channel and the pilot combustion channel, each fluid distributor (4) including a first supply opening (5) for supplying the fuel gas G into the main combustion channel, a supply line (6)~~

~~for supplying the fuel gas G present inside a gas channel (A3) to the first supply opening (5), and distributing means incorporated in the supply line for distributing the fuel gas (G) into the pilot combustion channel so that the distribution ratio of the fuel gas (G) to be supplied to the first supply opening (5) is increased in response to increase in a total supply amount of the fuel gas (G) from the gas channel (A3) and conversely the distribution ratio of the fuel gas (G) to be supplied to the first supply opening (5) is decreased in response to decrease in the total supply amount. And, the first channel (A1) is used as the main combustion channel and the second channel (A2) is used as the pilot combustion channel. A plurality of first supply openings for supplying the fuel gas into the main combustion channel are distributed in the main combustion channel in a direction away from the pilot combustion channel. Discharging resistance of the fuel gas from each first supply opening due to passage of the oxygen-containing gas is set so as to increase as being distant from the pilot combustion channel. --~~